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COLLECTORS'

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HISTORY ILLUSTRATED BY NUMISMATICS.

(Continued.)

The most ancient coins that have come down to us are those issued by the states and cities of ancient Greece. High authorities seem to be agreed that gold was first employed, and that a gold stater of the city of Miletus, in Lydia, Asia Minor, now in the British Musuem, exhibits marks of a more ancient character than any other known coin. This also accords with the statement of Herodotus, who says the Lydians first coined gold. The word "stater" signifies *standard*, and appears to have weighed twice as much as the silver standard or drachma, and to have equalled in value twenty drachma. The stater of Miletus is believed to be about twenty-five hundred years old, and illustrates the manner of the most primitive coinage. A die was cut, having the device (in this case a lion's head) in reverse. This die being fixed, a bullet of gold of standard weight, was laid upon it, and driven, by means of a punch upon its upper surface, into the die. Both the pattern and execution are, as might be expected, very rude: and yet these early pieces are characterized by a boldness of design very striking. As the art of coining improved somewhat, the metal was first more or less flattened before being stamped.

Of the same weight and of similar fabric are the daric or gold staters of Darius Hystaspis. The earliest of these coins are supposed by some authorities to be cotemporary with or even anterior to any ancient coins. Upon the obverse is represented a crowned monarch kneeling on the left knee, and armed with bow and javellin; the reverse shows only the punch mark or *quadratum incusum*. Respecting these darics and also the silver coins of like character, George Rawlinson makes the following remarks:

"The coinage of Darius Hystaspis, B. C. 521–486, consisted, it is probable, both of a gold and silver issue. It is not, perhaps, altogether certain that he was the first king of Persia who coined money; but, if the term 'daric' is really derived from his name, that alone would be a strong argument in favor of his claim to priority. In any case, it is indisputable that he was the first Persian king who coined on a large scale and it is further certain that his gold coinage was regarded in later times as of peculiar value on account of its purity

His gold darics appear to have contained, on an average, not quite 124 grains of pure metal, which would make their value about twenty-two shillings of our money. They were of the type usual at the time both in Lydia and in Greece—flattened lumps of metal, very thick in comparison with the size of their surface, irregular and rudely stamped. The only darics that can be assigned to the reign of Darius Hystaspis are those that have the figure of a king with a bow and javelin on one side and an irregular depression or *quadratum incusum* on the other. The silver darics were similar in general character, but exceeded the gold in size. Their weight was from 224 to 230 grains, and they would thus have been worth not quite three shillings of our money. It does not appear that any other kinds of coins besides these were ever issued from the Persian mint. They must therefore, it would seem, have satisfied the commercial needs of the people."

Whether the art of coining was derived by the Persians from the conquered Greeks, or whether it originated, as there is some ground for supposing, among the Persians themselves, is not fully settled. But it is interesting to the student in history to know that these darics were employed in the payment of the Greek soldiers during the march and retreat of the ten thousand, as narrated in Xenophon's Anabasis; and that they were also employed by the Jews as a free-will offering for the building of the temple, as stated in Ezra ii. 6–9. Other cities and islands of Asia Minor, coining gold money at a very early period, were Sardis, Cyzicus, Clazomene, Phocœa, Lampsacus, Chios, Teos and Abydos.

(*To be continued.*)

ALASKA ANTIQUITIES AND CURIOSITIES.

BY EDWARD G. FAST, ESQ.

PROFESSIONAL IMPLEMENTS OF A MEDICINE MAN.

The medicine man was once a person of great rank and distinction. His professional status was due to the superstitions credulity of the people, and his office comprised the healing of the sick as well as the conjuring of the evil spirit in general.

In the belief of the Kaloshians there does not exist a being bearing any kind of relation to the idea of divinity; nay, not a being personifying the principal of the good and beneficent. But everything which, within the realm of creation, is of preponderating importance to their existence, as water, rain, wood, the fish, the bear, etc., they represent to themselves as a hostile principle, and as one whose protection for themselves and help against their enemies they must endeavor to obtain. Their imagination gives to such beings those grotesque and horrid forms which we find expressed in the drawings on their old articles of furniture and dress, and in the carvings of their old weapons, idols, charms and their smaller utensils, with stereotyped unity and precision.

At the head of all these beings, and personifying, as it were, the

idea of all that is bad and terrible, stands one whose attributes are misfortunes, extirpation and death. This being was represented in a shape which is a kind of medium between a crocodile and a turtle, sometimes resembling most the former, sometimes the latter. This figure is traceable in nearly all their carvings and paintings, and it is mostly interwoven in all kinds of shapes with the features of other beings, betraying a combination of ideas in which its importance seems always to have been the leading point.

In the language of the Kaloshians, there is no distinct original term for this being, but each of its separate atttributes bears its particular name, and is represented by a distinct being. "Icht," for instance designates the being which brings death, and is represented in a figure with long flowing hair. But as death is, according to the conception of the Kaloshians, the termination of all misfortune, the end and object of everything bad, and equivalent to destruction and annihilation, they generally use this word to desiginate also that principal being. At the same time, "Icht," as a being, is identified with all things and actions connected with death; and, in their language, "Icht" is employed for designating all such things and actions. They are, therefore, objects of the most anxious solicitude, and in the belief of the Kaloshians the least profanation thereof brings death. Such also is the consequence of profaning the charms and idols which represent "Icht" in its collective capacity, and only the medicine man and the principal chiefs dared to wear them.

The medicine man was supposed to be in spiritual communication with these beings, and able to conjure them. Sickness was a mode of operation of "Icht" caused by the presence of the latter in the sick, and it was the professional task of the medicine man to cast him out by his manipulations.

As the people, by their communication with the Russians, become aware of the superiority of the modern remedies, the influence and distinction of the medicine man disappeared. At present, his professional efficacy has ceased almost entirely, and only a certain traditional influence enables him, with grave and solemn deportment, to occupy, on festive occasions, a prominent place among his former believers.

Besides his professional ability, the medicine man was the bearer or guardian of the national traditions. These traditions date back to the creation of the universe, and are a tissue of all kinds of mystic fables; being entirely oral, they must in the course of time, and with successive generations, have suffered many modifications.

(To be continued.)

A MENDICANT BY CHANCE.

BY E. M., JR.

The following amusing incident, related to us by a jovial numismatic joker, is too good for private preservation, and in making it public we trust our good-natured friend R. will not be offended.

A sale of coins came off, in New York, a few years ago, during the

hot summer months, and among the patrons from other cities was Mr. R., an enthusiastic collector of coins, who was drawn to the sale by the announcement that a fine 1799 United States Cent was to be disposed of. R. had been long searching for a fine specimen of this date to complete his series, and after an examination of the coins on exhibition at the auction rooms, concluded, as it was his first visit to New York, to walk around until the hour of the sale and view the public buildings.

About noon, when the sun was pouring down it's fiercest rays, R. arrived at the City Hall Park, and being very tired, decided to rest himself for a few moments upon one of the old wooden settees scattered about in the vicinity of the fountain. R. had and has a habit, when sitting, of taking his hat off and holding it in his left hand extended, while his elbow rests on his knee. Upon this occasion, R. was in a profuse state of prespiration, and while his hat was extended in one hand the other was engaged in wiping the dripping moisture from his forehead. An elderly lady, dressed in deep black, wearing spectacles, was slowly passing R., when the extended hat met her gaze, and naturally thinking our bald-headed friend was one of the numerous beggars which abound in the great metropolis and without doubt, near-sighted, as R. prides himself on his elegant apparel—and no sane person possessed with good eyesight could for a moment mistake him for a mendicant—stopped and gazed reflectively into the hat, and without ado plunged her wrinkled hand into a good-sized reticule and brought forth a piece of money, and dropped it in the outstretched hat and passed on. In vain R. called after her for an explanation; in vain were his protestations when he quickly suspected the error and recognized his position, the old lady deaf to what was transpiring behind her back, and no doubt contented with her contribution in the hat, continued on.

The position was a painful one for R., who was blessed with ample means, and always more ready to give than receive. With a hasty formed conclusion to overtake the lady and return the coin, R. replaced his hat, and quickly started in pursuit; but the chase was futile, the lady having passed into the surging mass of beings flooding Broadway and was "lost to sight" though to *somebody's* "memory dear." R. jumped into a bus, and soon landed at the auction rooms, where in the midst of a select few he related the circumstance which had reduced him, in the twinkling of a tiny second from affluence to beggary! All were anxious to see the the coin, and R. drew forth an old black and rusty copper cent, while many merry jests at R's. expense ran around the room; one remarking that a *cent* was rather a poor beginning for a mendicant of his respectable appearence. Another remarked that the old lady probably suspected that he was a bogus beggar, or her contribution would have been larger. While these and similar jests were bandied about, R. was engaged in examining the copper when he suddenly cried out: "A ninety-nine, by heavens!" and so it was, and thus R. completed his

set, at the loss of a few dollars to the owner of the collection on sale, whose 1799 was inferior to R's piece. Time wore on, and recently R. was exhibiting his set of United Sates Cents to a critical *friend*, who tested each rare coin by balancing it on the top of his fingers, sounding the metal, by striking it with a metalic substance, when he discovered that R.'s 1799 was an excellent electrotype copy of that rare and valuable United States coin. R. is in search of another 1799 cent.

HISTORY OF THE COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS, ETC., OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

BY ALFRED SANDHAM.

(*Continued.*)

86. C. Obv.—Same as No. 30. Rev.—Same as No. 26; date "1842."

87. C. Obv.—Same as No. 30. Rev.—Same as No. 26, "HALF PENNY 1842."

These coins, Nos. 86 and 87, also appear bearing date "1844."

88. C. Obv.—St. George on horseback, to the right, slaying the dragon. In exergue, between two roses, "1850." On the ground under the dragon. "R. K. & CO. BANK OF UPPER CANADA." Rev. Arms of Upper Canada. "BANK TOKEN ONE PENNY."

89. C. Obv.—Same as No. 88. Rev.—do., do., "HALF PENNY."

These coins are well executed. The device on the obverse is copied from Pistruccis crown piece. They also occur of the dates "1852," "1854" and "1857."

90. C. Obv.—Same as No. 26. Rev.—Arms of Quebec, "QUEBEC BANK TOKEN, 1852. ONE PENNY."

91. C. Obv.—Same as No 25. Rev.—Same as No. 90, "HALF PENNY."

92. C. Obv.—Within a beaded circle, head of Victoria to left, laureated, "VICTORIA DEI GRATIA CANADA." Rev.—Within a wreath of maple leaves, in a beaded circle, "ONE CENT, 1858." Scarce.

93. C. Obv.—Same as No. 89. Rev.—Do., do., date, "1859."

The head on these coins, and indeed the whole obverse, was designed for an English coinage, but the inner beaded circle not being approved the design was rejected. The inner circle, very rarely seen on coins of the present day, was copied, by desire of the Master of the Mint, from the bronze coinage, then recently issued by the Emperor Napoleon III.

94. C. Obv.—A ship under sail to right. Rev.—Within a circle of cordage, "R. W. OWEN, MONTREAL ROPERY." Edge engrailed. Very rare. No specimen of this coin has been met with in Montreal.

95. C. Obv.—Same head and beaded circle as No. 92, Inscription, "DOMINION OF CANADA PROVINCE OF QUEBEC." Rev.—Within a beaded circle, in 5 lines, "USE | DEVINS' | VEGETABLE | WORMS | PASTILLES | JULY 1ST | 1867." Outside of circle, DEVINS & BOLTON * DRUGGISTS, MONTREAL," No specimen of this token has yet been

issued. They were ordered (by the firm whose name they bear) from Birmingham, but upon their arrival in Canada, were seized by the authorities: the *New Currency Act* forbidding the manufacture or importation of coins or tokens. The token is well executed and is the same size as the Canada Cent, No. 92, and would doubtless pass through a number of hands as such without the mistake being discovered. The description is taken from the proof sent out to Messrs. Devins & Bolton for approval.

(*To be continued.*)

AN ENTERPRISING MANUSCRIPT HUNTER.

(*Concluded.*)

When, after nine years, he returned, they had all disappeared, and he could gather nothing respecting them from the inmates of the convent. On this occasion, he made fresh researches without result; but when the time of his departure was fixed, one of the monks asked him into his cell, and spoke of his labors in the Greek text of the Bible. "And I," said the monk, "possess a Bible of the Septuagint." Going into a corner of his room, he unwrapped from a black cloth the precious relic which M. Tischendorf had seen in 1844. He gazed on it with rapture, asked permission to take it to his room, and, with unspeakable delight, found that it contained twenty-two books of the Old Testament, and an entire New Testament, "The Epistle of Barnabas," and the first part of the "Pastor of Hermas." The first part of the Epistle had only hitherto been known by a very defective Latin translation, although the church of the second and third centuries always ranked it with the Epistles of St. Paul; and as for "The Pastor," the few manuscripts which remained of it were of a much more recent date, in which but little confidence was felt.

Here was a discovery; but knowing by experience how little disposed the monks were to part with their manuscripts, he could only ask for permission to copy it. And yet the caligrapher of Alexandria had evidently been more than a year in transcribing this volume, during the fourth century. To understand its value, it may be desirable to say that the end of all philological study, applied to theology, is to purge from the sacred text accidental or intentional interpolation which the hand of the transcribers had added in the course of ages. The best guides had hitherto been three manuscripts of the fourth and fifth centuries—the one at the Vatican; one in London, known under the title of the Alexandrine; and one in Paris, the Palimbsest of St. Ephraim. None of these are complete: certain gospels or epistles are wanting; and, therefore, the value of a Greek text of the same date as that of the Vatican, and complete in every part, may be estimated—the only one which, from the fifth to the fifteeth century, has escaped the ravages of time. Unfortunately, the prior of the convent had just left for Cairo, and his permission was necessary in order to carry out M. Tischendorf's desire, which was to carry the volume to Cairo, and there engage copyists to work as quickly as

possible, that he might take this inestimable treasure to Jerusalem, where he was shortly to meet the Grand Duke Constantine.

He started without a moment's delay, arriving at Cairo in a week. A Bedouin, trusted by the monks, was sent back with the promise of a good recompense if he would bring the volume safely and in a short time. The incredible time of nine days sufficed to cross the desert twice. The copyists were engaged; M. Tischendorf took his part—he directed them, solved their difficulties, and replied to their questions; and for more than two months this lover of science was nailed to his chair in the Hotel des Pyramides. Vainly did the spring breezes play against his window, and the thousand scenes of this great caravansera of nations demand his attention; he saw nothing but the lettters traced by pious hands fifteen hundred years before, and listened only to the inward voice, which whispered: "Be not weary; another line, another page. Christian science expects this offering from you, the oldest copy of the book of good news." Such was the souvenir that the Grand Duke was to possess of his journey to the East: he could show the much-wished-for jewel, the pearl of the Eastern Church, the Codex Sinaiticus. Rome, Paris, London, each possessed a relic of past ages: St. Petersburg would now have its own, and the most precious of the three. He reached Jerusalem in time to enter the Holy City with the Grand Duke and Duchess, to whom was accorded a reception such as had never been granted to a Christian prince since the days of the Crusades.

CHINESE AUTOGRAPHS.

(Continued.)

The Chinese take such delight in beautiful writing that the walls of their public buildings are ornamented with gigantic characters executed by their most eminent men, who are generally also their most accomplished caligraphers. Thus, for instance, the sole ornaments of the great Temple of Confucius, at Pekin, consists of autographic votive inscriptions of all the Chinese emperors for the last two thousand years. Of Confucius himself, no autographs are known to exist, though some have been preserved which were at least two hundred years old when the great philosopher was born. Confucius, by the way, is so highly venerated by all classes, that not one of his temples has ever been desecrated, though in times of insurrections the pagodas of Buddha have frequently been destroyed.

The innate reverence of the Chinese for their rulers renders the autographs of the latter invaluable; moreover, all official documents signed by the emperor—who always affixes his signature in *red* ink—must, under the severest penalties, be deposited at the end of every year, in the imperial archives at Pekin. This fact, of course, adds greatly to the rarity of his autograph, and hence a few words, "His majesty is well," written by the Emperor Kang-hi, a cotemporary of Louis XIV, in reply to an inquiry of his courtiers concerning his health, were recently sold for one thousand francs.

China must be the paradise of dealers in autographs, as almost every man in the empire is a collector. Rich and poor are alike proud to exhibit their autographic treasures. As, however, all persons cannot be the recipients of long letters, a few words, written on a *fan*, must in many cases suffice as a specimen. His fan might almost be considered an integral part of every Chinaman; no matter whether he is cold or warm, whether it rains or snows, he cannot exist without his fan; and nothing can afford him a sweeter revenge than to exhibit in the presence of his enemies a fan on which are written the signatures of some of the great dignitaries of the empire.

(*To be continued.*)

NUMISMATIC ERRORS OF THE PRESS.

It is a grievous and just complaint among numismatists that publishers, editors and reporters of newspapers and periodicals in the United States exhibit a lack of knowledge in regard to numismatology, notwithstanding the great interest the public manifest in every discovery of hidden coins, and the large number of our people interested in the true history of the world's coinage. One would suppose that the press, so thoroughly posted upon all the subjects of life, would aim to possess a perfect knowledge of the history of coins and medals. Nearly every article that appears in the press concerning these interesting and instructive mediums of exchange is full of the most unpardonable errors of description and rarity.

Harper Brothers published a work on coins, in 1861, full of errors, concerning the American coinage; and more recently Frank Leslie has issued an illustrated journal, in New York, crammed with nonsensical descriptions and erratic wood cuts of American coins and medals. The accounts now going the rounds of the newspaper world, giving the result of the Hodge sale, in Washington, is absurd. A proof set of coins, dated 1804, including the dollar, half dollar, quarter dollar, dime and half dime, is represented as having been sold for nineteen dollars and fifty cents. The fact is, that there was no half dime of 1804 coined, and if there was or was not, we should have given, at least, one thousand dollars for the set; but, unfortunately for us, there was nothing of this kind in the collection. It is hoped that there may, at some future time, prevail a larger and better knowledge of numismatics among the newspaper fraternity of our country.

PHILADELPHIA COIN SALE.

We call the attention of our patrons to the sale of coins to come off at Birch & Son's Auction Rooms, 1110 Chestnut Street, in this city, on Tuesday, November 7. This collection is an interesting one, having in it several very rare and valuable American pieces seldom offered at public sale. Catalogues furnished upon application, or telegraphic bids can be sent to Edward Cogan, Mason & Co., J. W. Kline, or auctioneers to care of above address.

SALE OF THE HODGE COIN CABINET.

By direction of the United States Government, the collection of coins, once the property of J. Ledyard Hodge, was sold, by public auction, for reasons well known to the public, at Mr. Hodge's former residence, in K Street, Washington, October 23. Mr. Knox, of the Treasury Department, and Mason & Co., of Philadelphia, were the only buyers; the latter firm securing all the rare and valuable pieces, excepting a lot of half cents, dating from 1840 to 1850, which were bought by Mr. Knox for nine dollars and twenty-five cents each. Among the choice things we secured at the Hodge sale were proof sets of 1846, 1854, 1856, 1857 and 1858; also, proof dollars of 1836, 1846, 1847, 1849, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857 and 1858; *unique* pattern half dollar of 1839 and an excessively rare pattern half dollar of 1838; pattern half dollar of 1859, having the Pacquet head of Liberty with reverse of ordinary half dollar of present issue (a very rare piece). We succeeded in obtaining a set of the rare half cents; also, proof copper cents of 1854, 1856 and 1857, and proof half cents of 1833, 1834, 1850, 1854, 1856 and 1857. All the above named are for sale, together with some rare colonials, patterns, Washingtons, etc.

THE CLAY CABINET.

The date of the public sale of Dr. Charles Clay's collection of American coins and medals has not yet been made public, nor has the catalogue been announced for any particular time It seems very strange that there should be such delay in the preparation for auction of this cabinet. Dr. Clay catalogued and prepared the collection with great ability, months ago, and we inspected the coins personally at the auction rooms, in New York, on the sixth of last month, and now we go to press, on the eve of November, without being able to announce anything of interest connected with the sale. Publicity is required to make a sale successful; but all our efforts to obtain information of time and particulars have been unavailing. Dr. Clay will discover that our offer, at his house, in Manchester, England, of six thousand five hundred dollars in gold for his collection, in May last, was a fair, square price, and we predict that the sale will not realise much over this amount in greenbacks and the doctor will have a fearful array of expenses to liquidate.

THE NEW COINS OF JAPAN.

The new silver coinage of the Japan government has at last made its appearance. The standard of fineness and weight is identical with the United States coinage. The unit, called the Yan, is similar in size and value to our own silver dollar. The coins, three in number, are round in shape and are called the Yan, Half Yan and Quarter Yan; designs are the same on each of the pieces—obverse sun, halo in the centre, wreath below, three flowers above; reverse, imperial dragon, surrounded by Japanese characters, edge reeded or milled, similar to the United States silver coins.

NEW MINT MEDAL.

A beautiful medal, to be struck in gold, has been designed, at the United States Mint, for presentation to Alexis, Grand Duke of Russia, upon the occasion of his visit to the Philadelphia Mint; obverse, bust of the Duke, with title, etc.; reverse, inscription in four lines, "VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, 1871," surrounded by a beautiful wreath; size 40. If copies of this medal are struck in bronze and for sale, we will notify our patrons in the next issue.

NEW JAPANESE MONEY.

The Continental Bank Note Company, of New York, has now completed the engraving of plates for two denominations of national currency for the Japanese Government. The bills are denominated respectively "One Yan" and "Five Yans." A "yan" corresponds with a dollar in United States money.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. S. V., INDIANAPOLIS.—The dump of Brazil and Portugal, or 80 reis copper pieces, were restruck in the United States from the original dies, surreptitiously obtained about 1835, and extensively circulated in Portugal and Brazil. The government of these countries were compelled to depreciate the value of their coinage by calling in and reducing the 80 reis to 40 reis, restamping the latter value over the former.

E. P., BOSTON.—You think the announcement that "Hodge's collection of coins is to come into market," rather premature, if not altogether an error. Well, perhaps, you are right; but it is our firm conviction that Mason & Co. purchased nearly all of the Hodge cabinet, at a public sale, in Washington, at Hodge's residence, on K Street, October 23, and that an employee of the United States Treasury Department was our only competitor. The sale of the other collection is only a question of time.

A. W., ASHBURNHAM.—Clay's collection will be sold the latter part of November. We send catalogues to all our patrons.

S. T. C., NEW YORK.—The Hodge collection of coins, as sold in Washington, October 23, realized $435 07, and was purchased by Mason & Co., through Mr. J. C. Randall (with the exception of a few pieces bought by Mr. Knox, of the United States Treasury Department). "The early bird," etc.

F., PHILADELPHIA.—We are preparing an article, for the December number, concerning the expense, dimensions, etc., of coin cabinets. We hope all those who peruse this reply will send us their views of the best method of constructing a cabinet, etc., the proper means of preserving coins, together with the plans adopted individually.

S. H., TROY.—Address of *Numismatic Journal*, No. 18 Somerset Street, Boston. Terms, $2 per year, in advance. Subscribe, and you will never regret it, as the *N. J.* is managed with consummate skill, and is worthy of the support of every numismatist.

T. W. C., MILWAUKEE.—You were not the first to discover that several of the United States half dollars have but twelve arrows on reverse. J. S. Randall, of Norwich, is entitled to the credit of first calling public attention to the fact, and he has thus far made known, through the *Boston Numismatic Journal*, four dates of half dollars, 1801, 1802, 1803 and 1805 over 1804, having but twelve arrows in the eagle's talons. If you find any other instances of the engraver's error, in this respect, please report them to this office.

W. B. R., ST LOUIS.—It is a long time since we heard from you. We have an assortment of fine notes, colonial and continental, on hand. We do not want the money in advance. We will send notes and coins in any quantity to our patrons to select from. Shall we send you a package?

H. P. A., BURLINGTON, VT.—Your last letter was received; it was dated July 12. Shall be pleased to hear from you. Would like to send you a package on approval, if you will designate your wants.

J. M. T., CINCINNATI.—We can send you business cards, such as you wanted about one year ago.

A. B., BROOKLYN.—We decline purchasing the Clinton piece at one hundred dollars. Would give about half that price, in trade.

JANUARY MAGAZINES WANTED.

We call attention to the following letter, in hopes of securing for the writer a January number of the magazine for 1871:

SPRINGFIELD, MO., October 9, 1871.

MESSRS. MASON & CO.—GENTS: Upon receipt at Vinita Junction, Atlantic and Pacific, and Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroads, in Cherokee Nation, on the 27th ult., of your favor of August 31, on which you replied to a previous inquiry of mine, "Can get you the back numbers from January, 1871, although a tight squeeze?" I enclosed a year's subscription, and Saturday evening last, received the roll—February to September, inclusive. It was a fear that I might not be able to get *all* the back numbers that indueed me to write before enclosing the subscription for the year, as I had delayed the matter so long. I understood the January number to be included in the "squeeze," so you must squeeze it out somewhere, if the thing is possible. A broken volume seems to be but little better than a missing one; but a note I notieed in one of the number sent, gives a satisfactory explanation as to the missing January number. If you sueceed in "calling in" any of the copies for that month, I don't want to be overlooked in their distribution. I shall look for one. So send it along, and at same time notify me of amount of extra charges and *I'll remit by return mail.*

Yours, etc., M. B. WESSON, Box 283.

BLACK LIST.

The large number of small amounts due to us for coins, etc., renders it necessary that some plan must be adopted, upon our part, to collect them. When these bills remain unpaid (after proper notification) *one month*, we shall insert the initials of each delinquent under the title of this article. If unpaid balances are not settled in two weeks after publication of initials, we shall insert in the next magazine the name and address in full.

COINS ON APPROVAL.

Any of our readers or patrons wishing a package of coins, paper money, medals or relics of any kind on approval will be accommodated by making application and designating what class of coins, etc., they would like forwarded. We pay return express charges.

Philatelic Department.

PHILATELY CONSIDERED AS A MORAL AGENT.

BY E. M., JR.

The attention of parents, guardians and those having the care or guidance of the young of either sex, is earnestly called to the importance and value of philately, as a great moral agent, or lever, as it were, to lift the young mind from low trifling thoughts and employment to high intellectual studies and noble pursuits.

Philately is an infatuating study, and from its variety of attractions, in the way of novel postage stamps (in color and design), presents to the young mind a field at once vast and interesting. The prattling child views in it a series of bright and beautiful pictures, and at once is formed a desire to know more of the little gum stickers. The school girl and school boy, farther advanced in the world's knowledge, recognise a new geographical and historical instructor in a postage stamp, and a new method of learning the world's present and past history, a method not found in their school books; then comes the desire to form a set of stamps of some particular nation, of which, from some discarded envelope, they have the initial specimen; thus set after set is obtained and an album constructed from some blank leaves of an unused ledger bank book, or more often a copy book or quire of letter paper is brought into requisition. Now comes the youth out among his associates, a foot higher, a degree prouder, in feeling than when ignorant of the use and purposes of stamp gathering. How bright his eyes, how inflated with pomp and pride, when the boys gather around his small collection, devouring in utter amazement the explanations of the young philatelist, and feasting their straining eyes first upon the speaker, and then gaping in wonderment upon the little colored squares of printed paper, so neatly and uniformly arranged upon the little book before them. Mark that lad's influence: the boys scatter and enter their different homes; and soon after hoops are dropped, balls roll away and lay undisturbed in some distant corner, and the mania for stamps when once deeply rooted can never be fully eradicated. As the child grows to manhood, he points with pride and satisfaction to his amateur efforts in the philatelic way and remembers that the common little scraps of printed paper, blurred and disfigured by over stamping, were the stepping stones which led him up the intellectual ladder, and gave him a knowledge of the world's history that few young men possess. This knowledge gave him a social status among

his companions greatly to be envied, and better than all it preserved him from the evil habits that inflict three fifths of the youths of our country. A hobby of such valuable moral worth as philately should be encouraged and perpetuated in our homes, and thus keep out the demon of intemperance, the criminal practices of the gaming table, and fit our young men for elevated pursuits, making them, at once, respected and respectable; improving by their influence the moral tone of the community, and setting an example of industry, studiousness and intelligence.

THE DEAD LETTER.

BY JOHN G. SAXE.

And can it be? Ah, yes, I see,
'Tis thirty years and better
Since Mary Morgan sent to me
This musty, musky letter.
A pretty hand (she couldn't spell),
As any man must vote it;
And was't, I remember well,
A pretty hand that wrote it!

How calmly now I view it all,
As memory backward ranges—
The talks, the walks, that I recall,
And then—the postal changes!
How well I loved her I can guess
(Since cash is Cupid's hostage)—
Just one-and-sixpence—nothing less—
This letter cost in postage!

The love that wrote at such a *rate*
(By Jove! it was a steep one!)
Five hundred notes (I calculate)
Was certainly a deep one;
And yet it died—of slow decline—
Perhaps suspicion chilled it;
I've quite forgotten if 'twas mine
Or Mary's flirting killed it!

At last the fatal message came;
"My letters—please return them;
And yours—of course you wish the same—
I'll send them back or burn them."
Two precious fools, I must allow,
Whichever was the greater;
I wonder if I'm wiser now,
Some seven lustres later?

And *this* alone remains! Ah, well!
These words of warm affection,
The faded ink, the pungent smell,
Are food for deep reflection.
They tell of how the heart contrives
To change with fancy's fashion,
And how a drop of musk survives
The strongest human passion!

NEW ISSUES.

JAPAN.—We have just seen, for the first time, some specimens of the new Japanese postage labels. They are all of the same design, but of four different colors; the brown represents 48 zeni, or half a tempo; the blue, one tempo; the red, two tempoes; the green, five tempoes; *i. e.*, about five cents. These stamps are square in size, and have evidently been designed after the French postage stamps, which they resemble in size and shape.

They are apparently engraved from copper plates. The outer border of the design is not unlike the well-known Etruscan key border; next to this is an ornamental edging, of the Vandyke pattern. Inside this is a repetition of the well-known and seemingly irrepressible Riu, or dragon, whose portrait figures so conspicuously upon the old Kinsatz and on the new coins. Finally, in the centre, are some characters printed in black ink, which stand for, in case of the red stamps, the words "Zeni. Nihyaku mon," the amount which the stamp represents.

The postage for the letter weighing five momme ($\frac{2}{3}$ oz.) is 15 tempoes, about half a bee, or say 12 cents. A foreign merchant of Osaka informs us that he sent a letter recently through the imperial post office, and has since heard that it was received in Yedo within three days of the date of its dispatch from Osaka. Advantage has also been taken by foreigners to forward letters by this route, when the steamer leaving Kobe had been missed, in order to catch the mail before it left Yokohama.—*The Hiogo News.*

SPAIN.—The accession of King Amadeus has led to a fresh change in the armorial bearings, which now consists of two lions and two towers, in four corners as before, and the cross of Savoy in the centre, the whole surmounted by the royal crown. A handstamp bearing this device, and destined for the use of members of the Senate, has just made its appearance. Like its predecessors, it is inscribed SENADO CORREO, is oval, and is printed blue.

A second stamp has the towers and lions, plus the Granadian emblem, in the point of the shield, and Savoy cross replacing the Bourcon lilies in the centre, the shield being surmounted by the royal crown. Above the arms is a scroll, inscribed COMUNICACIONES, and below, on a second scroll, EL DIRECTOR GRAL. Impression is in black.

URUGUAY.—It is announced that the 5 and 10 centimes will shortly be superseded by fresh designs, which are now being engraved in England, and will be perforated. The 15 and 20 c. will continue in circulation for some time to come.—*Stamp Collectors' Magazine.*

ORIGIN OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

(*Continued.*)

The next attempt at issuing postage stamps was made by one Treffenberg, of Stockholm, who proposed to the Assembly of Swedish Nobility to issue stamped paper to be made into envelopes for

letters. The propositition was warmly supported by Count de Sewerin, on the ground that it would be both convenient to the public and to the post-office, but the proposition was rejected by a large majority.

But to Mr. Rowland Hill are we indebted for that postal reform introduced by him into the British Parliament, in 1837, which, among other reforms, proposed that letters should be prepaid by means of stamped covers, or envelopes. His proposition met with much opposition. Fortunately, thousands of petitions poured in for the furtherance of this bold project, and Parliament moved, by such a general manifestation, caused a commission to examine the plan. After many stormy debates it was adopted, and put in operation on the 6th of May, 1840. To Mr. Hill, then, do we owe the adoption of the idea, and its more practical development. As soon as the postal scheme was matured in England, and the emission of postal stamps decided on, the authorities issued a prospectus offering a reward of five-hundred pounds for the best design and plan for a stamp. The conditions, which were widely circulated, stated that the chief desiderata were simplicity and facility in working, combined with such precautions as should prove effectual against forgery, Thousands of designs—many of the most elaborate workmanship—were sent in; but none were so simple as that furnished by Heath, of London, which was subsequently chosen. About the same time, a prize was offered for the best design of an envelope, which was gained by Mulready, R. A., who produced that peculiar combination of allegories representing England attracting the commerce of the world. It was engraved on brass by John Thompson (the pupil of Branston), who devoted many entire weeks in cutting it in relief. By the stamped envelope and adhesive of the present day it has an almost mediæval appearance. England, therefore, has the honor of creating the first postage stamps (those previously mentioned having little in common with those now in use) where they were created to be successively adopted by all civilized countries Upon this simple foundation has been built a postal reform which vies with any other reform in this reforming age. After a currency of a few months, the "Mulready" envelopes fell into disuse, and were superseded by the small adhesive stamps furnished by Heath of London. In July, 1840, a two-penny stamp was issued, and subsequently a complete series ranging in value from one half penny to five shillings.

(*To be continued.*)

STAMPS.

BY WILLIAM T. ADAMS.

The use of postage stamps on letters and newspapers is merely a new application of an old invention. Revenue stamps are comparatively new with us, but they have been known in Europe for nearly two hundred and fifty years.

The Dutch have a right to whatever credit may be due for such an

invention. Early in the seventeenth century, the states of Holland had laid heavy duties on merchandise of every sort, and still the income of the government was not equal to the expenditure. They now offered an ample reward to any one who should invent a new impost; one that would, at the same time, be light on the people, and be productive to the public treasury Some shrewd thinker proposed that it should be enacted by public authority that no petition should be received, that no document should be admitted in courts of justice, that no contracts of any kind should be valid, except such as were written upon paper impressed with the seal of the state. This appeared to the Hollanders a happy idea and stamped paper was introduced at once (1624) by an ordinance which represented the necessity and the great benefit of the new tax. Stamped paper, it was claimed, would tend to lesson the number of lawsuits, and for that very reason, if for no other, would soon be adopted by other nations.

The Dutch were right. In less than fifty years a trial of stamp duties were made in England—though not for the purpose of lessening litigation, perhaps,—and other nations were not slow to follow. Indeed, the Spaniards are said to have been ahead of the English.

At the present day, this Dutch fashion holds its ground over a large part of Christendom. A slight change, it is true, has been made. At first, the blank for the writing was sold with the stamp, and it was necessary for the government to invest a large amount in paper. The improvement consisted in selling the stamps separately, as is now done in most cases.

When the uniform cheap postage commenced in England, somebody suggested the idea of paying postage by means of stamps, and the plan was adopted in 1840. Seven years later, the Postmaster General of the United States was authorized to prepare postage stamps, and to furnished them to the post offices throughout the country. In 1852, stamped envelopes were authorized.

At first, the writer could place a stamp on his letter, or pay the postage and send it without a stamp; but, since the beginning of the year 1856, it has been the duty of the postmaster to place stamps on all letters on which stamps had not already been placed—that is to say, if the postage had been paid.

In 1861, the Postmaster General was authorized to procure and furnish letter sheets "with postage stamps impressed thereon;" but the method of folding these so that, when sealed, their contents cannot be read may almost be reckoned among the lost arts, and there is consequently very little call for this kind of stationery.

POSTAGE STAMP SALE.

A sale of rare aud valuable foreign and American postage stamps was announced at Leavitt & Co's, Astor Place, New York, for October 9. The catalogue consisted of 229 lots. Strange to say, Scott & Co., managers of this sale, are silent in their journal of October 20, concerning the result.

COINS FOR SALE.

English Silver Crowns, prior to 1700; good condition,	$1 50
English Half Crowns; old dates,	75
French Medals; bronze; proof,	75
Greek Silver Coins,	75
" Brass "	50
Roman Silver Coins,	50
" Brass "	15
California Gold Dollar, octagon or round,	1 75
" Half Dollar, "	75
" Quarter Dollar, octagon or round,	50
United States Mint Sets—Five, Three, Two and One Cent Pieces; 1871; proofs,	25
United States Mint Sets—One Dollar to One Cent, inclusive; 1871; proofs,	4 50
100 Store Cards, all different, fine,	3 00
100 Rebellion Tokens, all different, fine,	3 00
Silver Proof Sets, 1859 to 1870, each,	5 50

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The London Times in miniature—a photographic copy of the great newspaper—every word and letter distinct and in exact form and appearance of the original—4 inches by 3 inches. Every lover of the curious should have a copy. Price, 25 cents. Also, Harper's Weekly—photographic copy. in perfect miniature (size of a visiting card) and folded in exact appearance of the original—illustrations remarkably perfect. Price, 25 cents.

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UNITED STATES ENVELOPE STAMPS.

Complete sets of United States Envelope Stamps, issue of 1865, cut with wide margin, 9 envelopes, 3 cents to 40 cents, per set, free of postage, $1 50.

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CONFEDERATE STAMPS.

Two Cent Stamp,	head of Davis,	rose,	unused,	each,	10 cents
Five do	do	blue,	do		2 cents
Ten do	do	do	do		3 cents
Five do	do	blue, large,	do		25 cents
One do	do	orange,	do		25 cents

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COIN COLLECTION FOR SALE.

A private collection of United States Cents, 1793 to 1857, including varieties of 1793, 1800, 1806, 1810, 1811, 1814; also including Colonial Coins of Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, New Jersey, Virginia, &c. All the rare cents in fair condition; later dates good to uncirculated. Price, $35.

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We have a fine steel plate for framing, 24 by 30 inches, containing the Lord's Prayer in fifty-four languages. Mailed for 50 cents.

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